

9-1-1991

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Recommended Citation

McGuckin, Jr., John H. (1991) "Scandinavian Tombstones in Mendocino CO., CA," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 11 : No. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol11/iss3/5>

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Scandinavian Tombstones in Mendocino Co., CA

John H. McGuckin, Jr.*

During a week's visit to the northern California town of Mendocino, Mendocino Co. in the summer of 1989, I visited four separate cemeteries within a ten mile radius of the town. Each of these cemeteries contains tombstones which identifies the country of origin of the decedent. A large number of the gravestones identify Scandinavian immigrants. The presence of these northern European immigrants is not surprising given the logging, fishing and whaling industries which attracted settlers to the northern California coast in the late 19th century.

Hillcrest Cemetery, Zenith Hill Memorial Cemetery, the Catholic Cemetery and the Chinese Cemetery, all share a common plot of land at the top of one of the hills within the town limits of Mendocino itself. The Mendocino Cemetery sits within sight of Highway # 1 on the edge of the town. The Little River Cemetery is three miles south of Mendocino on Highway # 1. The Rose Memorial Cemetery, the largest of the Mendocino coast burial grounds, is located in Fort Bragg, eight miles north of Mendocino.

The information summarized here is taken from the gravestone and includes any other individual, probably relatives, memorialized on the immigrant's tombstone.

Hillcrest Cemetery, Zenith Hill Memorial Cemetery, Catholic Cemetery and Chinese Cemetery

J.P.L. Jonson	Sweden	D. 2 April 1889, age 64.
Jens Christian Marsen	Denmark	D. 3 Dec. 1867, 24 years, 6 months.

Mendocino Town Cemetery

Erick Jensen Albertson	Denmark	B. Ommel, Aerø, Fyn ¹ 17 Sept. 1835; d. 20 Aug. 1872. [Adjacent markers include Matilda Grejor, wife of C.J. Albertson. She was b. in Brackley Point, Prince Edward Island, Canada in May 1836. Their s. Peter Grejor Albertson, b. in Mendocino 12 Dec. 1870; d. Caspar, CA 15 Sept. 1895.]
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*John H. McGuckin, Jr. res. at 2 Ashbury Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94117

Charles Forman	Finland	B. in Fine River, Mehta Co. (sic!); d. 7 July 1876, age 46.
Fred Halling	Sweden	D. 8 July 1915, age 79.
Sigrid Sophia Halling	Sweden	D. 20 Nov. 1897, age 53; wife of Fred Halling.
Hans Hansen	Denmark	B. 2 Feb. 1842; d. 15 June 1885. [Also his wife, Carrie A. Prentis, d. 31 Oct. 1881, age 32.]
Andrew Hanson	Sweden	B. 26 Feb. 1851; d. 10 March 1909.
Gustave Hansen	Denmark	D. 24 May 1894, age 72.
Janetta Hansen	Denmark	D. 7 Jan. 1923, age 99, wife of Gustave Hansen.
Nikoline Caroline Hansen	Denmark	B. 1 Aug. 1814; d. 7 Feb. 1897, wife of W.P. Hansen.
Erik Junth	Sweden	D. 12 Nov. 1887, age 32.
Charles Karp	Finland	B. in Uleåborg; d. 11 Dec. 1875, age 53.
N.Z. Klinke	Denmark	D. 7 Sept. 1900, age 74.
Peter Klinke	Denmark	B. 1867; d. 1908.
Sophia Klinke	Denmark	D. 8 May 1895, age 48; wife of N.Z. Klinke.
Charles Laurell	Sweden	B. in Västervik; d. 9 April 1873, age 38.
J.A. Leighton	Sweden	B. 13 April 1856; d. 18 May 1904.
John P. Lindberg	Sweden	D. 6 May 1903, age 79.
Jacob Mehtala	Finland	B. Fish River, Forest Co. (sic!) 25 July 1854; d. (no date given), in Navarro, CA, 34 years, 3 months, 16 days. [At base of monument description tells of wife and child in the U.S., a father and 3 bros. in Finland, and names Santra L. Mehtala, probably his wife.]
John Olsen	Norway	B. in Christiania (Oslo); d. 8 Oct. 1882, age 40 (?).
Ole Osmundsen	Norway	D. 11 Feb. 1875, age 22.
Chris Ottoson	Denmark	D. 27 Aug. 1884, age 55 years, 11 months, 12 days. [Also Mrs. C. Ottoson, his wife, d. 3 Oct. 1904, age 80 years, 8 months, 4 days.]
Per Gustof Palmstream	Sweden	B. 26 Aug. 1816; d. 26 Sept. 1883.
Carl Johan Pesula	Sweden	B. in Karl Gustaf Parish (Norr.) 21 Aug. 1873; d. 19 Aug. 1939.
John Peterson	Sweden	No date. Age 35

Little River Cemetery

Jacob Bergland	Sweden	D. 17 Nov. 1909, age 29.
Lars Anton Christian	Norway	D. 11 June 1897, age 33.
George Escola	Finland	B. 1843; d. 1914. [Also Helen Escola (1898-1900) and Matilda Escola (1851-1942).]
Niclaus Fresta	Norway	D. 22 Dec. 1898, age 55.
Annie May Hansen	Norway	B. 1867; d. 1911. [Also Edward L. Hansen (1844-1919).]
Charles Hathaway	Norway	B. 8 Jan. 1817; d. 16 Sept. 1894.
John Johnson	Finland	B. 26 Dec. 1862; d. 25 Nov. 1929.
Matt Gabriel Koskela	Finland	D. 18 Jan. 1911, age 33 years and 9 months. [Also Leo Gabriel Koskela, s. of Matt and Mary Koskela, d. 27 Sept. 1911, age six months and Maria S. Koskela (1875-1968).]
Emelia C. Mahlmann	Denmark	B. 9 Feb. 1835; d. 15 June 1911, wife of August F. Mahlmann, who d. 1 Jan. 1892, age 69 years, 8 months and 18 days, native of Hanover, Germany.
Hans Olsen	Sweden	D. 14 Oct. 1891, age 40.

Rose Memorial Cemetery

Fort Bragg

Alfred Aspholm	Finland	D. 30 May 1909, age 29.
Herman Berkovits	Finland	B. 1862; d. 1913. [Also Hedwig Berkovits (1858-1929); Philip Berkovits (1900-1932); Franz Berkovits (1896-1975); Arwa R. Berkovits (1890-1960); Olga Barnard (1888-1923), wife of N.L. Barnard; Varka Barnard (1896-1932); Harold L. Barnard (1886-1946).]
Adam Dorffi	Finland	B. 18 Aug. 1845; d. 8 Sept. 1901. [Also Mary (1846-1921); Hanna (1888-1962); Victor (1885-1950).]
Frank Eakman	Finland	D. 29 Dec. 1907, age 30.
K.L. Engroos	Finland	D. 4 June 1900, age 41 years, 21 days.
Herman Arvid Hermansen	Norway	B. in Vadsø 1874; d. 1933. [Also Marie J. Hermansen, b. 25 Nov. 1872; d. 4 Dec. 1956.]
Zelma Jare	Finland	B. 1893; d. 1921, wife of August Jare.
Matt Kopisto	Finland	B. in Pyhäjoki 5 March 1890; d. 1 April 1968.

Annie Laito	Finland	D. 5 April 1904, age 24; wife of O. Laito.
Anna Lane	Finland	B. 1858; d. 1934.
Jacob Lane	Finland	B. 1859; d. 1937.
Michael Madison	Finland	D. 15 Sept. 1900, age 50. [Also Albert, s. of M. and K. Madison, d. 19 July 1901, age 11 years, 5 months, 11 days; Olga, dau. of M. and K. Madison, d. 20 Jan. 1900, age 9 years, 5 months, 12 days and K. Madison, mother, d. 9 July 1927, age 61.]
John Mann	Finland	B. 23 Aug. 1864; d. 26 Feb. 1933. [Also Mary, his wife, d. 8 Feb. 1898, age 29 years, 5 months, 4 days and John, d. 15 Sept. 1895, age 2 months, 2 days; Alma E., d. 28 Jan. 1898, age 1 year, 2 months; Louisa, wife of John Mann, b. 6 Feb. 1861; d. 20 Nov. 1935.]
John Ness	Finland	D. 8 March 1913, age 55. [Also Sophia (1858-1931), his mother; Charles Ness (1886-1965), his s.; Adolph Ness (1910-1914) and Ida Ness (1879-1935).
Martin Nevanpera	Finland	B. 1847; d. 21 Sept. 1895.
Gustaf Peterson	Sweden	D. 5 Aug. 1902, age 70.
Olaf Peterson	Sweden	B. 1855; d. 1923.
Peter Peterson	Finland	D. 29 Oct. 1905.
Charles Ronqwest	Finland	D. 25 Dec. 1906, age 24.
Antti Sauka	Finland	D. 2 April 1909.
Sophia Siltanen	Sweden	B. 23 July 1893; d. 14 Aug. 1933.
Peter Solbert	Denmark	D. 14 Sept. 1901, 71 years, 9 months, 5 days.
Gus. F. Sound	Finland	D. 28 Aug. 1893, age 46.
Carl John Zetterlund Mendo	Sweden	B. 1851; d. 23 Feb. 1915.

¹The geographical names have been normalized according to modern gazeteer usage.